This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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As for truth, it endureth and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore.—Esdras.

WHOLE NO. 1505 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1940. | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 30, NO. 7

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Thank you, Mr. President!

The American Federation of Labor asked you last week to tell the American public the truth about the failure to resume labor peace negotiations.

You responded promptly, Mr. President. You told the truth. You informed the public that the American Federation of Labor had responded favorably and unreservedly to your appeal for the restoration of peace conferences. You revealed for the first time that John L. Lewis had spurned your pleas.

Now the public knows the truth. Now it is the duty of all American workers, whether they are members of the American Federation of Labor or the C. I. O., to compel Mr. Lewis to see reason or get out. No one man can get away indefinitely with the position stubbornly held by Mr. Lewis. No one man can prevent the hosts of labor from achieving the unity they want and need. No one man can stay on the spot and take the heat that is being turned on Mr. Lewis and will be turned on him.

Even Mr. Lewis knows this. So as soon as President Roosevelt spoke up and told the country the truth—in fact the very next day—Mr. Lewis attempted to squirm off the spot and escape the public wrath by making a show of offering peace. It was the same kind of phony offer Mr. Lewis has made repeatedly in the past. Some people, including most of his followers, were duped by the previous fake peace proposals emanating from Mr. Lewis. But by this time everyone is wise to his game. That kind of phony will not work any more, Mr. Lewis. You had better think up a new one, quickly.

Ulterior Motives

Even Mr. Lewis anticipated difficulty in fooling the public this time so he went to great lengths in insisting on his own sincerity and in warning against efforts to seek flaws in his proposal or to hunt ulterior motives behind it. It is not necessary to look for ulterior motives in the Lewis plan. They stick out all over it like a porcupine's quills.

Let us identify them for you. In the first place, Mr. Lewis did not submit his proposal to the American Federation of Labor directly or ask that it be submitted and considered by the duly constituted peace committees representing both sides. No. Instead, he blew his pretty bubble in the air at the tail end of a speech before the American Youth Congress in Washington. More about this Congress later.

In the second place, Mr. Lewis asked for the immediate chartering by the A. F. of L. of all C. I. O. units without audits of membership or regard for jurisdictional conflicts with existing A. F. of L. unions. This means that the A. F. of L. would issue charters to paper organizations with inflated membership and thus give them added strength and encouragement to carry on their fight against the A. F. of L. from within the A. F. of L. Wouldn't that be a fine way of achieving peace and unity!

Finally, Mr. Lewis topped his proposal off with the glittering but completely gratuitous offer to withdraw himself as a candidate for any office in the A. F. of L. How unselfish, noble and touching!

The Way to Peace

When we face the facts we see that the labor war has been a bitter one and the road to peace will not be an easy one. The essential requirements are these:

Peace must be real peace. It must come from a mutual realization that existing strife is unnecessary, harmful and dangerous to labor. It must be a lasting peace. It must be a complete peace.

The American Federation of Labor is willing and has been willing from the beginning to admit all C. I. O. unions and their members to the fold without prejudice, without discrimination and without penalty. We want them to come back. We want them to work with us, not against us.

Therefore, it is first necessary to have an independent audit made at once of the paid-up membership of both organizations.

After such an audit is made, it will be necessary for the officials of unions on each side with conflicting jurisdictions to sit down and work out mutually satisfactory mergers. The American Federation of Labor cannot have two unions fighting against each other in the same field for the right to represent the same workers.

Finally, after the mergers have been arranged on a voluntary basis, all the C. I. O. unions, including those originally chartered by the A. F. of L., can come back at once to the house of labor and take their rightful place in the conventions of the American Federation of Labor with the same rights and privileges as the organizations which have remained faithful throughout.

Mr. Lewis, if you will accept these terms, you will be treated on the same footing as any other member in good standing. Nothing will be placed in the way of any ambitions you may still entertain. In fact, we invite you to come in and offer yourself as a candidate for any office in the American Federation of Labor at its next convention. We wouldn't think of depriving you of that opportunity.

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

Strike Against Phonograph Music Upheld

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A decision by the New York Appellate Division regarding the validity of a strike against phonograph music is bound to create considerable interest both among those who believe that inventions should not be used to victimize labor and employers who contend that inventions should be installed solely in the interest of profits regardless of the effects on workers whose labor is displaced and whose earning power is destroyed.

According to the evidence in the case an opera company used phonograph records instead of employing musicians. The musicians used their organizational strength in opposition to this policy and declared a strike as a method of protecting their jobs by persuading the opera management to can the canned music. Instead of recognizing the justice of the musicians' action the opera company resorted to the injunction process to restrain the strikers from "interfering" with the business of the company. But the court ruled that the musicians may not be enjoined from using their organized strength to persuade the company to hire musicians instead of supplying opera music by phonograph records. The court is reported to have held that the right of labor in this respect is similar to that of employers under the common law to use new inventions for their profit.

Observers point out that judicial sanction of limitations on the use of labor-displacing machinery imposed by unions to protect their employment is relatively new. Should the ruling of the New York Appellate Division be upheld by the New York Court of Appeals, it is probable that unions may more frequently utilize their organized strength to prevent their right to live by their labor being jeopardized through the unreasonable substitution of soulless machines for human strength and skill.

538,573 Evacuated Children, 166,206 Mothers Return to Homes in London

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The following article regarding the return of evacuated children and mothers from their billets in the country to London was published in the January 26 issue of the London Daily Herald:

"Of 1,161,865 mothers and children who were evacuated to the safety zones at the end of August, 684,254 are back again in their own homes.

"That is equal to 59 per cent of the total figure.

"This was revealed by Mr. Elliot, Minister of Health, in the House of Commons yesterday.

"He said that 734,883 unaccompanied children were evacuated and 315,192 have returned, equal to 43 per cent; 260,276 accompanied children were evacuated and 223,381 have returned, equal to 85 per cent; 166,-806 mothers were evacuated and 145,-681 have returned, equal to 87 per cent.

"Only 456,586 children and 20,525 mothers are still in their billets.

"Since the middle of December almost 150,000 people have returned to their homes.

"In some of the villages to which hundreds of children were evacuated only a few dozens are left.

"All the children have returned from a number of others."

Fleming Nominated Wage Administrator

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—President Roosevelt nominated Col. Philip B. Fleming of the Army Engineering Corps to administer the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Statutory restrictions previously had made it impossible to make the army officer administrator of the Wage-Hour Act. These restrictions were removed in the urgent deficiency bill passed by Congress.

Col. Fleming has been serving as actual Wage-Hour Administrator, although technically listed as an assistant to Acting Administrator Harold Jacobs, since Elmer Andrews resigned last Fall.

EDITORIALS

Practical Approach to the Problem of Unemployment

The persistent refusal of those who own and control American industry to provide employment for around nine million men and women able and willing to work is a national tragedy which is sapping the stability of our system for the production and distribution of wealth.

Every worker in the United States has the moral right to permanent employment. This is axiomatic in face of the fact that under our industrial system the only way the workers have to provide a living for themselves and their families is by the sale of their labor power—their ability to produce wealth and render service—to employers.

The Constitution of the United States was established to "secure the blessings of liberty" for all Americans. When employers refuse to buy the labor power of millions of working men and women, these workers are deprived of their ability to purchase the things that constitute a living. They and their families are thus denied the blessings of liberty enunciated by the Constitution, for without the right to buy a living, liberty is a meaningless word.

The crux of the entire unemployment situation is the profit motive and principle on which our industrial system is based. Business men go into business solely to make profits out of the labor they employ. If they can't make profits they refuse to employ labor—and that is the reason why nine million workers today are tramping the streets vainly seeking jobs. If employers could sell at a profit the commodities the unemployed workers are capable of producing and the services the unemployed workers are capable of rendering, the nine million jobless would vanish into the thousands of plants making up our industrial and commercial system. But the practical experience of employers reveals to them the indisputable business fact that the millions who are employed produce all the commodities and render all the services that can be sold at a profit. Therefore, the nine millions of unemployed are denied work and kept in the conscript army of the jobless.

Economists, politicians, jurists, social workers, business leaders and other prominent persons disagree as to many of the causes of unemployment and the measures capable of being applied to provide the jobless with work. Some of the Lincoln's Birthday speakers contended that so-called labor-saving machinery and other technological devices are not responsible for unemployment. But the American Federation of Labor declares that three million workers have been thrown into the present unemployed army by means of these job-destroying methods. In addition, the Federation points out that five million of the jobless are represented by working men and women who were added to the working population during the last ten years and for whom those who own and control industry have not provided jobs.

To remedy this atrocious unemployment condition, which inflicts undeserved poverty upon millions of helpless workers and their dependents, the American Federation of Labor demands the extension of the six-hour day, five-day week, thus absorbing many of the unemployed. In addition, the Federation urges the creation by Congress of a National Advisory Council, including representatives of labor, farmers, consumers, industry and the Government, to explore the entire unemployment problem and coordinate all elements of our population in a determined effort to develop methods by which industry can expand production and wipe unemployment off the map of the United States.

Surely the proposal of the American Federation of Labor is a reasonable and pragmatic approach toward restoring to nine million American men and women the legal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness set forth by the Declaration of Independence and the right to the blessings of liberty proclaimed by the Constitution as the fundamental principles upon which free institutions are based and without which the documents establishing free institutions mean nothing to the freedom of the masses.

Outlawing "Third Degree" Confessions

The unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court overruling the action of the Supreme Court of Florida affirming the sentence of four Negroes to death for alleged murder again puts the spotlight on the prevalence of the "third degree" method of torture by which police and other law enforcement officials, frequently with judicial sanction, illegally railroad people to jail and frequently to the gallows or the electric chair.

In 1933, following the murder of a white man near Pompano, Fla., about thirty colored farm hands were arrested without warrants and charged with the crime. The suspects were finally reduced to four, who were "questioned" night and day for a week by the sheriff and his assistants. They persisted in their innocence until the end of the week of third degree torture, when they finally "broke" and confessed. Confronted with these confessions, the jury convicted the four Negroes of murder and the Supreme Court of Florida upheld the jury's verdict. But the Supreme Court of the United States held that the confessions and pleas of guilty had been obtained in gross violation of the guarantees of civil rights provided by the Constitution of the United States, and outlawed the entire procedure by means of which the death penalty was imposed, from the week's "questioning" in the Florida jail to their conviction by the jury and the decision of the Florida Supreme Court.

After reviewing the method of torture to secure confessions of guilt, from the "rack, the thumbscrew and the wheel" of former times to the third degree system still used in some jurisdictions by law enforcement officers, Associate Justice Hugo L. Black, who delivered the unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court, said:

"We are not impressed by the argument that law enforcement methods such as those under review are necessary to uphold our laws.

"The Constitution proscribes such lawless means irrespective of the end. And this argument flouts the basic principle that all people must stand on an equality before the bar of justice in every American court.

"Today, as in ages past, we are not without tragic proof that the exalted power of some governments to punish manufactured crime dictatorially is the handmaid of tyranny. Under our constitutional system, courts stand against any winds that blow as havens of refuge for those who might otherwise suffer because they are helpless, weak, outnumbered, or because they are non-conforming victims of prejudice and public excitement. Due process of law, preserved for all by our Constitution, commands that no such practice as that disclosed by this record shall send any accused to his death.

"No higher duty, no more solemn responsibility, rests upon this court than that of translating into living law and maintaining this constitutional shield deliberately planned and inscribed for the benefit of every human being subject to our Constitution—of whatever race, creed or persuasion.

"The Supreme Court of Florida was in error and its judgment is reversed."

Reactionary Employers Fight Decent Wages and Hours

The continuing campaign of certain groups of employers to weaken and even repeal the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 is strong evidence of a determination to impose indecently low living standards and indecently long hours on millions of workers now protected by the law.

From the point of view of economic justice reasoning citizens are wholly unable to understand the attitude of these subversive business men.

The provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act are clearly not unreasonable.

In the field of wages employers are prohibited from paying less than 30 cents an hour to working men and women in the industries covered by the law. In the field of hours employers are prohibited from employing workers longer than 42 hours per week. This means $12.60 in wages for a 42-hour week. Surely this small remuneration does not enable the workers anywhere to purchase an unreasonably high living standard for themselves and their families. And yet, a considerable group of employers are vigorously fighting these wages and hours and seek the statutory right to pay their employes less than 30 cents an hour and work them longer than 42 hours per week.

The American Federation of Labor is determined that the protection given low income workers by the Fair Labor Standards Act shall not be diminished, that all attempts to weaken or destroy the act shall be fought on every front and that chiseling employers who violate the act shall be dealt with vigorously in strict compliance with the penalties prescribed by the statute.

Government Farm Subsidies in Ireland

Farmers in Northern Ireland are evidently carried away with the necessity of a farm subsidy similar to the ones which operate in the United States and other countries.

Recently the Irish Ministry of Agriculture granted a subsidy of two pounds per acre for grass lands ploughed up and planted to approved crops, such as wheat, oats, and sugar beets. Now the Ministry of Agriculture has extended the subsidy to flax. It was explained that the output of the linen industry is largely absorbed by government orders in connection with the war against Hitler's German government.

UNIONS EVOLVE PLAN TO SETTLE DISPUTES

400,000 Railroad Shop Workers Agree on Method to Adjust Controversies Involving Jurisdiction.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Chicago, Ill., February 15.—New machinery for handling jurisdictional disputes, intended to eliminate stoppages and promote peaceful industrial relations, went into effect today among unions affiliated with the Railway Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor. It was estimated that the unions represent 400,000 shop workers on the railroads.

Under the plan, which climaxes thirteen years of effort, impartial referees will decide jurisdictional questions that cannot be settled through direct negotiations.

Officials of the Railway Employes' Department said the plan was designed to exclude recourse to management or government in the handling of inter-union disputes and to keep their settlement "inside the house of labor."

The unions include the machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, sheet-metal workers, carmen and firemen, oilers and shop laborers.

In letters sent to the heads of all railroads urging cooperation by management in putting into effect decisions arrived at through the jurisdictional machinery, the unions declared that the new system was being put forward "in an earnest effort to eliminate as promptly as possible any and all friction that may result from jurisdictional disputes between our various organizations."

Employers will not be asked or permitted to decide questions of jurisdiction, but the unions, in return, promise that such questions shall not be allowed to interfere with an employer's work.

MILLINERY UNION'S PACT COVERS 21,000

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—A new three-year agreement covering 21,000 millinery workers in the metropolitan area was signed on February 14 at a luncheon in the Hotel Astor.

Walter K. Marks, president of the Eastern Women's Headwear Association, praised the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, for its efforts to remove labor costs from the competitive field through the establishment of uniform standards. He said he hoped the new contract would benefit manufacturers and workers alike.

Strict adherence to the terms of the agreement was promised by Nathaniel Spector, manager of the union's joint board. He said the workers realize their welfare was tied up with the welfare of the industry and that their position would improve as the industry became more prosperous.

ELECTION PLAN FILED FOR GENERAL MOTORS

Four Unions Involved in Stipulations Defining Terms For NLRB Poll In Fifty-Nine Plants.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—Following an extended hearing by the National Labor Relations Board an agreement was reached by representatives of four unions and General Motors Corporation which paved the way for elections in 59 plants to choose collective bargaining agents.

The documents in the case were sent to the NLRB in Washington, which will order elections if the record of the hearing is satisfactory. The stipulation was signed by representatives of General Motors; the United Automobile Workers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; the C. I. O. Auto Workers Union; the Pattern Maker's League of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, and the International Association of Machinists, A. F. of L. affiliate.

One provision of the stipulation said:

"The appropriate bargaining unit in connection with collective bargaining in the General Motors Corporation is the plant or group of related buildings or plants operating under a common local resident manager in the same local community, producing similar or related products, or craft subdivisions within each plant as may be selected by employes therein."

Another part of the agreement declared:

"The industrial relations staff of General Motors Corporation will negotiate collectively with the officers of the international union certified as exclusive bargaining agency. This negotiation will be for those plants for which the international union has been certified as the exclusive bargaining agency and on such issues as are common to all plants for which such international union has been certified as the exclusive bargaining agency."

Spokesmen said the agreement was speeded by the withdrawal of seven plants from the proceedings by the unions. Among those to be settled by further negotiations and not to be included in the present order for elections are three plants in Oakland, Calif., one in Los Angeles; the proving grounds at Milford, Mich., the Chevrolet commercial body plant in Indianapolis and the corporation's plant in Grand Rapids.

Big Plans Made For Southern Labor Conference in Atlanta March 2-3

Credentials Already Received From Many American Federation of Labor Unions; President Green, Secretary-Treasurer Meany and Other Notables Will Take Part in Meeting to Promote Organizing Campaign in Southern States.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Atlanta, Ga.—Credentials to the Southern Labor Conference to be held in Atlanta on March 2 and 3 are simply pouring into the office of George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor.

These credentials are coming from central labor unions, building trades councils, metal trades councils, women's auxiliaries, union label leagues, local unions, railroad brotherhood lodges and local unions of the 21 standard railroad organizations.

They are coming from textile unions, federal labor unions, longshoremen, miners, and service trades local unions.

Inspection of the credentials already received indicate two things: First, that the conference will, indeed, be the largest meeting ever held by the American Federation of Labor in its long history; second, that all groups of workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the Standard Railroad Organizations will be represented in the conference.

While these credentials are pouring into A. F. of L. headquarters in Atlanta, reports from the hotels in this city bring the heartening message that reservations are being made for the conference from all parts of the country, and from practically all National and International Union officials.

Reservations have already been made in the hotels here for President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Secretary Emeritus Frank Morrison, and many other officials of the American Federation of Labor. Executive officers of numerous national and international unions also have made reservations and others are coming in daily.

President Dewey L. Johnson's committee on arrangements, headed by Albert W. Gossett as chairman, is working long hours to have everything in readiness for the reception and entertainment of the visiting thousands.

The mayor and leading citizens representing the business and professional life of the city of Atlanta are lending every aid in making complete these preparations. President Charles B. Gramling of the Georgia Federation of Labor and all members of his executive board, are rendering yeomanry service in the preparation, and this State group is receiving the fine cooperation of many outstanding State leaders.

That March 2 and 3 will be busy days is indicated by the program of activities which begin early Saturday morning, March 2, when President Green will be guest at a breakfast to be given him by leading business executives of the south.

Registration of delegates and visitors will start at 9 o'clock in the city auditorium, and for an hour while registrations are being made and the great crowd assembles, a musical concert will be given by the union musicians of Atlanta.

Promptly at 10 o'clock President Dewey L. Johnson will call the conference to order, and after welcoming addresses have been made, the president of the Georgia State Federation of Labor, Charles B. Gramling, will be called to the chair and the business of the conference will begin.

Throughout the day the conference will continue, and Saturday night a great banquet will be given in honor of Secretary-Treasurer Meany and Secretary Emeritus Frank Morrison. President Green will be principal speaker at the banquet.

Conference sessions will be resumed at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, and continue throughout the day, and many national and international executive officers will remain over Monday and hold meetings with members of their respective local union delegates attending the conference.

While local unions and affiliated bodies are requested to name delegates to attend the conference, the fact that all members of local unions of internationals affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and members of the Brotherhoods are cordially invited to attend, will bring great throngs of interested people in addition to the duly elected delegates. State Federation of Labor officials in the ten Southern States sponsoring the conference are working hard to get as nearly all local unions to send delegates as possible, while central labor union officials are aiding their respective State federation officials.

A. F. L. Union Wins Fish Market Strike

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLWNS).—Following a one-day strike, United Seafood Workers Local 20284, A. F. of L. affiliate, negotiated a renewed contract with 18 fish dealers who supply fish to Philadelphia, upstate Pennsylvania, South Jersey, part of Delaware and cities as far South as Washington.

Officials of the union said the contract guarantees 52 weeks of work each year, which was the chief issue in the strike.

Three Shifts For Textile Workers

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The tendency of competitive conditions in industry to reduce employment standards is revealed in the action of James T. Moriarty, Labor Commissioner of Massachusetts, in authorizing textile mill owners in that State to operate three shifts to whatever extent may be necessary to meet competition in other States which have resorted to the twenty-four-hour plan in the present upturn in the market for textile goods.

The action of Commissioner Moriarty grew out of a conference with the textile mill operators in which general opposition to the third shift had been broached, but it was emphasized that mills in Massachusetts would suffer a decrease in profits unless they were permitted to operate on the same all-day all-night plan that was being applied by operators in other textile manufacturing areas. Committees were formed representing both employers and workers to formulate a workable hours policy, accompanied by a reported threat of the commissioner, in event of disagreement, to revoke his suspension of the six o'clock law which forbids employment of women after that hour in the evening.

Following the recommendations of the committees, Commissioner Moriarty promulgated a compromise policy under which he will not enforce a regulation preventing mills from operating three shifts where it involves large contracts which otherwise might be awarded to mills in other States. The Massachusetts operators agreed not to work the third shift except under those conditions.

It was explained by Commissioner Moriarty that the three-shift plan is a temporary arrangement deemed necessary to enable Massachusetts textile mills to compete under national conditions which it is hoped will be changed. He said it was planned to have all New England operators support a movement to put into operation a national two-shift agreement.

Rail Wage Cut Imposed by Receivership Court Reversed

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The right of railroad receivers to place railroad employes in a status inferior to other claimants on railroad funds has been definitely outlawed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Judicial Circuit in the case involving the Rutland Railroad Company.

On June 30, 1938, the United States District Court of Vermont directed the receiver of the Rutland Railroad Company to reduce wages of employes 15 per cent. On December 9, 1939, the District Court ordered a second wage cut.

The reduction in wages under the June 30, 1938, order was withheld by direction of the Vermont Court and was to constitute a general claim in the railroad's receivership proceedings.

After reviewing the case, the Circuit Court of Appeals reversed both orders of the United States District Court as contrary to the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. The Circuit Court of Appeals decided that the amount of wages withheld represented a prior lien in the proceedings ahead of the railroad's first mortgage bonds.

All of which means that the workers who operate the trains are to be paid for their labor first, with the coupon clippers who own the railroad bonds bringing up the rear.

Britain Plans Delay Of Union Elections

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Press reports from London announce that the British government has introduced a bill in Parliament permitting labor union officials to retain their offices during the war without the necessity of re-election. Similar legislation was adopted during the World War.

Words "Unfair to Organized Labor" Are Not Libelous, Calif. Judge Rules

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

San Francisco, Calif.—Use of the words "unfair to organized labor" are not libelous for damages. Members of a union cannot be held liable as co-conspirators in damage action unless directly connected with the case.

These were highlights of one of the most important court decisions in California labor relations, handed down recently by Superior Judge Hilliard Comstock of Sonoma County in a five-year-old case fought by counsel for the California State Federation of Labor.

The decision was given in the case of Elmer Libby, non-union Santa Rosa barber against the Santa Rosa Labor Council, and others, in which Judge Comstock ordered a new trial following a jury verdict of $2,000 general and $3,500 punitive damages. Date for the new trial has not been set, Attorneys Clarence and Henry Todd, acting for the Federation, said.

Late in 1935 Libby's barber shop in Santa Rosa was picketed in an effort by the unions to enforce a price schedule. Libby finally agreed to a price scale following adoption of a city ordinance fixing the price for haircuts at 65 cents and shaves at 35 cents. The ordinance was declared unconstitutional. Libby cut prices, and picketing was instituted.

Libby sued for damages, and during a three weeks' trial failed to produce records of previous earnings in support of his claim that his business was damaged. The jury, however, awarded him the verdict of $2,000 general damages and $3,500 punitive damages.

Attorneys Clarence and Henry Todd argued for a new trial on the grounds that damages were excessive that evidence was insufficient to justify the verdict and judgment, that the verdict and judgment are contrary to law, and that the court erred in admitting certain testimony and giving certain instructions to the jury.

Judge Comstock's decision granting a new trial reviews the grounds argued by the Federation attorneys, and in his nine-page order the Court discussed the case in detail. Important among the observations are paragraphs relating to use of the words "unfair to organized labor," in connection with which Judge Comstock wrote:

"No presumption of legal injury would flow from an accusation that one was 'unfair to organized labor,' or words of similar import. To put it otherwise, damage would not naturally and necessarily result from their use. Hence, the words themselves could not be the subject of general damages."

The jury award involved twenty-three defendants, including officers and members of the Labor Council, and the Barbers' Union. In referring to arguments of the Federation counsel in behalf of the defendants, Judge Comstock wrote:

"Defendants further argue that the award of $3,500 punitive damages cannot be sustained because it is levied upon all of the defendants without proof that each of them was actuated by malice in fact or participated in any act of oppression or fraud against the plaintiff."

In support of his decision on the point, he wrote:

"The case stands as one where punitive damages should not have been assessed against all. Mere suspicion or conjecture upon the part of the jury that every member of the union or every defendant barber may or should have known what was being done to Libby is not sufficient to base a verdict upon."

Continuing on the subject, after legal citations, he said:

"Because of the joint and several natures of the judgment it may, if allowed to stand, be enforced against all or any of the defendants.

"A grave injustice would result, possibly the complete financial ruination of one or more of the defendants whose sole conection with the case was that he was a Santa Rosa barber or a member of the defendant union."

The order for the new trial provides that it shall be held upon all the issues.

"The motion (for a new trial) is granted upon the grounds of excessive damages, insufficiency of the evidence to justify the verdict and judgment, and errors in law occurring at the trial and excepted to by the defendants," Judge Comstock said in conclusion.

Edward D. Vandeleur, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, which sponsored the fight, said it was one of the most important decisions rendered in favor of labor in many months.

96,000 IDLE GET JOBS IN BRITAIN

But Over One Million Are Still Unemployed Despite the War Boom in Industry.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

In an article entitled "These 86,000 Men Who Have Been Unemployed More Than a Year Get Work at Last," the London Daily Herald gives the following summary of the unemployment situation in Great Britain after five months of the war against Germany:

"A special effort to deal with the 'hard core' of unemployment is being undertaken by the Ministry of Labor.

"It took a special count on January 1 of all the people who had been registered for at least twelve months.

"In respect of some groups, it is hoped to have consultation with the employers and the trade unions concerned.

"Meanwhile the latest count shows that the war has reduced the number in the 'hard core' by more than 86,000.

"On August 14 there were 223,098 men on the registers between the ages of 18 and 64 who had been workless for more than a year.

"By January 1 the number had fallen to 136,669.

North Benefits

"The largest reduction was among men unemployed one year but less than two; they fell from 77,147 to 40,405, a drop of 36,742.

"There were reductions in all parts of the country, but the chief were in the North West, North England and Scotland.

"This reflects mainly the recovery in the cotton and coal industries of those areas.

"For the first time, the Ministry analyzes its figures by occupation of the men, and this shows that 54,000—or about 40 per cent of the 136,669 long-term unemployed—are classified as general laborers.

Youth Preferred

"The Ministry's latest figures show, as might have been expected, that the main reduction in the long-term unemployed has been among the younger men.

"Thus, those between 18 and 34 decreased by two-thirds between May and January.

"The difficulty of placing the men increases with age; but a big effort is to be made to secure that all who are physically capable shall be once more fitted into industry.

"It cannot be forgotten, however, that the Government still has the problem of placing 1¼ million workpeople who have not yet qualified for the 'hard core.'"

In an editorial "Down to the Core," the Daily Herald comments as follows on the Ministry of Labor's activities to relieve unemployment:

"Mr. Ernest Brown has at last been persuaded to try to tackle 'the hard core' of unemployment.

"He finds that the number who have been without work for over a year has fallen by 86,429 to 136,669 since last August.

"So far, so good. And now Mr. Brown is to investigate the remaining cases individually and consult with the unions and employers on methods of getting them back to work.

"That is the right method of advance. Indeed it should have been adopted long ago.

"But don't let us forget the other 1,250,000 unemployed who haven't yet even entered the 'hard core.'"

40-Cent Minimum Hourly Wage Rate Favored by Railroad Labor Unions

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Application of a forty-cent hourly minimum wage rate to the railroad industry was strongly favored by Frank L. Mulholland, representing the Railway Labor Executives' Association, at the hearing held by the Railroad Industry Committee set up under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Denying the claim of W. T. Joiner, counsel for Class I railroads, that the 40-cent-an-hour minimum would increase unemployment because of extensive mechanism of work by railroad management to reduce labor costs, Mr. Mulholland definitely opposed a wage differential for the South.

He declared that the burden of proof in the proceedings was upon the carriers and that it was the committee's duty to recommend a 40 cent minimum unless the railroads present a preponderance of evidence to show that such an increase would curtail employment substantially.

"All other issues are irrelevant," he insisted.

"As I understand it, the statement of the counsel for the railroads is that matters should stay as they are and that this committee shall take no action. We deny that contention.

"As to the South, we are opposed to any classification for minimum wage purposes within the industry. Only the clearest showing of necessity on the part of the entire industry and not a region will justify such classification.

"It is our contention that the law contemplates a 30 cent minimum wage only as a stopgap until a 40 cent minimum can be established in all industries. The only question for the committee to weigh is whether 40 cents will curtail employment to substantial extent."

First Criminal Trial Under Wage And Hour Act Opens in Brooklyn

Government Accuses Manufacturers of Paying Home Workers as Little as Three Cents an Hour.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The first criminal prosecution of an employer under the United States Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 opened here February 14 before Judge Matthew T. Abruzzo in the United States District Court.

The defendants are Irving O. Rosen and his wife, Mrs. Ada Rosen, operators of the Rose Manufacturing Company, of 163 Walworth Street, Brooklyn, who are accused of paying home workers on window shade trimmings as little as 3 cents an hour.

Since the Federal wage-and-hour bill went into effect on Oct. 24, 1938, the wage and hour unit of the Department of Justice has instituted sixty-eight criminal prosecutions. In forty-one of the cases the defendants avoided trial by pleading guilty. The other twenty-six cases are pending.

Rosen and his wife were indicted on fourteen counts on Jan. 18, 1940. That indictment superseded one of seven counts against Rosen alone that was returned on Sept. 1, 1939. If convicted, the Rosens face fines of $10,000 apiece on each of the fourteen counts. Since they are first offenders, they are not liable to jail sentences.

The first eight counts of the indictment charge the Rosens with failing to pay a minimum hourly wage of 25 cents prior to Oct. 24, 1939. The ninth count accuses them of failing to pay a minimum hourly wage of 30 cents after Oct. 24, 1939. The tenth and eleventh indictments charge them with failing to keep adequate pay roll records and falsifying records. The last three counts allege use of the mails to distribute goods manufactured in violation of the wage and hour act.

Counsel for the government were Brunson MacChesney, acting chief of the wage-hour unit of the Department of Justice, and John K. Carroll, special assistant to United States Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, of Brooklyn.

Mr. Carroll, in his opening to the court and jury of four women and eight men, said that the Rosens were in the business of manufacturing window shade pulls and tassels. He said that many employes who had worked for the Rosens as long as ten and fifteen years earned, even after the act became effective, only $1.25 to $1.40 a week.

Government Control of Vocational Education Opposed by the A. F. of L.

Local Agencies Should Have Authority to Administer Federal Grants-in-Aid, With U. S. Government Limited to Formulating and Administering Labor Standards on Vocational Education Projects.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The American Federation of Labor is strongly opposed to the control by the United States Government of vocational education financed by Federal funds. The Federation maintains "national centralization of administration of an educational program is contrary to fundamental principles of democracy and freedom, as well as incompatible with service to local needs."

This important subject was presented to the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor in the report of the Committee on Education on Federal grants-in-aid for education and certain educational bills before Congress.

The report pointed out that although the American Federation of Labor originally favored the general purpose of the bill introduced by Senator Thomas of Utah (S. 1305), the measure as reported to the Senate contained an amendment hostile to the policy expressed in the bill, and that for this reason the American Federation of Labor drafted its own bill recommending local control of vocational education.

Thomas Bill Summarized

The report of the Committee on Education, which the convention adopted, follows:

"A year ago the Committee on Education undertook to evaluate the report of the President's Advisory Committee on Education. During the year the broad recommendations of that report were put into legislative form—S. 1305. This bill provides:

"Title I. Grants to States for the Improvement of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.

"Part 1. Aid to be given to public elementary and secondary schools in annually increasing funds from $40,000,000 the first year until the sum of $140,000,000 is appropriated (5 years hence), including classroom work and auxiliary services (school health programs, recreational programs, services for handicapped children), guidance, textbooks, and supplies, transportation; the funds to be apportioned on a basis of relative need of the several States; the States to make annual reports on the expenditures.

"Part 2. Aid for teacher preparation.

"Part 3. School Building Programs.

"Part 4. Aid in Administration of State Departments of Education.

"Part 5. State Acceptance Provisions.

"1. State must provide adequate system of auditing of funds and of reporting.

"2. Must protect labor standards on buildings.

"3. States may allow children to be transported to non-public schools on federal funds.

"Title II. Grants for Adult Education. The method of allocating funds for adult education is entirely different from the method provided for allocating funds under Title I.

"Funds under this section are allocated on a basis of stimulation of this work rather than on a basis of equalization of opportunities for it among the States, hence the allocation is on a basis of population and not on a basis of need. This bill provides that funds shall be given only to publicly supported adult education centers.

"Title III. Grants to States for Rural Library Service.

"Title IV. Grants for Aid in Research.

"Provides that up to 60 per cent of the funds may be allocated to qualified institutions of research (non-public).

"Title V. Aid for Persons living in Federal Areas.

Policy of Bill Vitiated By Undiscussed Amendment

"The Permanent Committee on Education analyzed this bill with care and approved it in general. At the hearings on the bill before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor the American Federation of Labor was represented by Matthew Woll, George Googe and Irvin Kuenzli. The Federation spokesman there also gave general approval to the original bill.

"An amendment, however, was proposed later, which was not presented for discussion at any public hearing and which was in contradiction of the policy laid down in the statement of policy of the bill. Efforts were made by President Green to correct this part of the bill. Meetings were held with the American Vocational Association.

Local Control of Vocational Education Demanded

"It is the position of the Federation that local control of vocational education was necessary in order adequately to meet local needs. A difference of policy developed which it is important that labor should fully understand. It is unnecessary to review the evolution of vocational education in our country. That is set forth briefly in the Executive Council's Report.

"It is proper to state that one of the difficulties which has arisen in the development of vocational education is the dual system of control between the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the local educational system. Dual control nationally prevents local integration of educational planning. In addition, national centralization of administration of an educational program is contrary to fundamental principles of democracy and freedom, as well as incompatible with service to local needs.

"In one field only is federal control necessary—in the formulation and administration of the labor standards to be observed in all vocational education projects. Accordingly the American Federation of Labor drafted its own bill, which was submitted to Congress. In that bill, the Permanent Committee recommended local control of vocational education, so that plans for vocational education should be decided locally.

"Your committee therefore endorses the bill prepared by the Permanent Committee on Education. We believe the exclusive control of vocational education should be taken from the Federal Office of Education and returned to local communities.

Federal Advisory Committees On Labor Standards Urged

"Such action, however, should be accompanied by the setting up of Federal Advisory Committees on labor standards, with representatives for labor and employers to be selected by their respective organization. When the recommendations of these Advisory Committees are promulgated by the Secretary of Labor they should then become mandatory for the allocation of federal grants by the Commissioner of Education.

"It is proposed that a National Advisory Committee on Standards of Vocational Education should be likewise set up, with equal representation for employers and employes designated by the organizations which they represent. In this way it is felt by the Committee on Education that the best practices can be supported and an exchange in experience brought about. Under such a system there would be no federal control of educational policy, but rather local initiative and direction would be preserved and aided.

"In view of the fact that complete agreement has not yet been reached between the American Federation of Labor Committee on Education and others especially interested in vocational education, we recommend that this matter be referred to the Executive Council for further consideration and action."

M'ENTEE IS NAMED TO ADMINISTER CCC

President Puts Jersey City Man In Office Left Vacant by Death of Robert Fechner; Has Been Acting Director.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt has appointed James J. McEntee of Jersey City, N. J., director of the Civilian Conservation Corps to succeed the late Robert Fechner.

Mr. McEntee, who had been executive assistant director of the CCC since it was established in 1933, served as acting director during Mr. Fechner's long illness and after his death last December 31.

Born in Jersey City in 1884, Mr. McEntee was graduated from the public schools there and studied engineering at Cooper Institute, New York. He served his apprenticeship at the Blair Tool Works in New York, left to go to the Rogers Electrical Company and then went to the U. S. Long Distance Automobile Company, where he helped design one of the early automobiles. It had one cylinder and a wooden clutch.

In 1911, Mr. McEntee gave up active work as a machinist to represent the International Association of Machinists in industrial relations. It was at this time that he met Mr. Fechner, who was then a member of the executive board of the International Association of Machinists.

As representative of the I. A. M., Mr. McEntee helped to settle, among other disputes, the newsprint strikes in United States and Canadian plants in 1922. He was active in railway labor negotiations, and was a constant worker for the eight-hour movement for shipyard employes.

President Wilson appointed Mr. McEntee as a member of the New York Arbitration Board during the World War. The board, a commission of three, adjusted disputes as to hours and wages in munitions and war-supply manufacturing plants in the New York district.

President Roosevelt asked Mr. McEntee in April 1933, to come to Washington to work with Mr. Fechner in organizing and administering the CCC.

SHIPPING FIRM SIGNS TELEGRAPH UNION PACT

A. F. of L. Affiliate Negotiates New Wage Scale For Radio Officers of American South African Line.

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—Officials of the Marine Division of the Commercial Telegraphers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced the signing of a new agreement with the American South African Line, Inc., covering radio officers employed by the company.

Spokesmen for the union stated that the agreement provides for a new wage scale of $130 per month for freight ship radio officers. On passenger ships chief radio officers are to be paid $150 per month, first radio officers $135, and second radio officers $120.

The agreement replaces the one which expired on February 9, 1940, and is to run for a period of one year.

The Commercial Telegraphers Union announced that negotiations were under way with other steamship companies to bring the wage scales of radio officers up to the one signed by the American South African Line.

Other companies which have recently signed contracts with the A. F. of L. affiliate are: Waterman Steamship Corporation of Mobile, Ocean & Dominion Steamship Corporation of New York, Mississippi Shipping Co. of New Orleans and the Commercial Molasses Corporation of New York.

STAMP TAX URGED FOR JOB INSURANCE TAXES

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Professor Herman A. Gray of New York University, chairman of the New York State Advisory Council on Unemployment Insurance, recommends a stamp system for collecting unemployment insurance taxes as the only feasible method of extending insurance protection to workers in small businesses.

Following a study of the problem for four years, Professor Gray says he is convinced that the use of tax stamps would overcome most of the administrative obstacles that have blocked the inclusion in the unemployment insurance system of persons who work for employers with fewer than four employes. It is estimated that at least one million workers in New York State would be affected by enlargement of the insurance program along the line suggested by Professor Gray.

Under his plan the employer would paste a stamp in the account book of each employe every month as proof that he was paying the State tax. In Professor Gray's opinion, this would have the double virtue of preventing delinquency in tax payments by employers and of providing visible evidence that a worker was eligible for benefits in periods of unemployment.

WAGE BOOST BENEFITS AFL TEXTILE WORKERS

Providence, R. I. (AFLWNS).—Members of the Federation of Woolen and Worsted Workers of America, affiliated with the United Textile Workers of America, are realizing in tangible form the high living standards resulting from high pay gained through the activities of a union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Following protracted negotiations the Federation of Woolen and Worsted Workers secured a ten per cent wage increase for employes of the A. D. Juilliard & Company, Inc., Atlantic Mills Division of Providence, and the Lymansville Company, Lymansville, Rhode Island. The wage increase took effect February 5, and the fatter pay envelopes contribute materially to improve the living standards of the employes.

Joseph Sylvia, president of the Woolen and Worsted Workers Federation, said that negotiations for wage increases were being conducted with employers in Maine, upper New York State and Eastern Massachusetts.

SATURDAY BANK CLOSING DURING SUMMER FAVORED

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The New York Clearing House Association, comprising 19 of the largest banks in Wall Street, adopted a resolution in favor of legislation to permit the closing of banks in New York State on Saturdays in July and August.

Last year Saturday bank holidays in the Summer were inaugurated through permissive legislation and were observed in New York City and in most communities of the State. Since then there has been considerable agitation for Saturday bank closing throughout the year. The clearing house, however, did not go on record as favoring this.

WORKERS REGAIN JOBS LOST BY "KICK-BACK"

Judge Is Told Firms Demanded Restitution of Wages Returned.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Two New York City firms were ordered, through motions granted by Judge Henry W. Goddard in United States District Court, to rehire employes they had discharged for refusal to "kick back" restitution of wages which had been paid them after the intervention of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

One of the workers, a shipping clerk, was discharged by Ramon-Robert, Inc., silk converters. The other employe, a paper box worker, was discharged by Edward Rogers, Inc., a paper box manufacturer.

The motions were made on behalf of George B. Kelly, Regional Director of the Wage and Hour Division, following investigation of complaints filed by the employes. Both concerns, it was said, were recently induced by the Wage and Hour Division to pay their employes for services for which they had previously been underpaid.

Miss Posser, it was said, was accordingly paid $51 and then asked by her employers to pay all of it "right back." Bloom, according to the complaint, was given $91 and then asked to pay the sum back to his employers in nine weekly installments. When both refused, investigators said, they were discharged.

LUCKENBACK CLERKS STRIKE IN NEW YORK

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—Approximately sixty clerks employed by the Luckenback Steamship Line went out on strike here February 14 because of failure to reach an agreement mainly on the question of hours.

A member of the A. F. of L. Brotherhood of Railroad and Steamship Clerks, to which the employes on strike are affiliated, said the trouble was caused by a difference between the clerks and the executives over the matter of hours of employment and in some cases, of wages. He added that the dispute had been placed in the hands of the Labor Board for adjudication and it was expected that a mediator would take the case in hand and hold hearings which might result finally in a satisfactory settlement.

WAGE-HOUR ACT HITS NASHVILLE COMPANY

Cullom & Ghertner Required to Pay 16 Employes Over $2500 in Wages Illegally Withheld.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Nashville, Tenn.—"The futility of trying to 'short-circuit' Uncle Sam's Wage and Hour Law," declares the Nashville Trades and Labor News, "was recently demonstrated in Nashville, which the Cullom and Ghertner Printing Company of this city, who have had several tilts with local A. F. of L. Printing Trades Unions, paid a total of two thousand, five hundred and three dollars and seventy-four cents to sixteen of their employes, whom they had failed to pay wages commensurate with their service under the provisions of the Wage and Hour Law.

"Members of Printing Trades Crafts informed Trades and Labor News that Cullom & Ghertner had agreed to settle the matter out of court, a fact verified by contact with the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Labor Department, with offices in the Medical Arts Building in this city. In reply to our query, William M. Eaves, Regional Director of the Tennessee-Kentucky Region, wrote as follows:

"'Following an investigation of this office it was disclosed that sixteen employes of the firm of Cullom & Ghertner had not been paid in compliance with the Wage and Hour provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This condition was taken up with the employers who voluntarily made restitution in full to the employes affected without the necessity of any court action. * * *'"

4-STAR UNION LABEL ESSAY CONTEST BOOMS

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor is receiving hundreds of essays on the subjects of the 4-Star Essay Contest. They are: "Why I Buy Union Label Goods," "Why I Use Union Services," "Why I Am a Labor Unionist," and "Why I Joined a Women's Auxiliary."

I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of this Department of the American Federation of Labor, estimated that thousands of essays would be submitted by contestants who are desirous of winning the grand prize of $250 for each essay and the numerous union label products which are offered as additional prizes.

Unionized manufacturers are donating valuable union-made articles, a list of which will be printed and sent to those who are interested.

For rules and full particulars regarding the 4-Star Essay Contest, address communications to I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

DRIVE PLANNED FOR CIGAR MAKERS LABEL

New Haven, Conn. (AFLWNS).—The Cigar Makers' International Union of America and the New England Label League are planning an intensive campaign for the Cigar Makers' union label in the New England area.

The campaign will begin about February 20, and will be directed by Charles E. Rohler of this city.

Mr. Rohler is fifth vice president of the Cigar Makers' International Union.

All forms of publicity will be used in the drive, which is expected to result in largely increased demands for union-made cigars.

HOMELAND IN PALESTINE FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, adopted a strong declaration demanding that the British Government meet the problem presented by the action of Germany against the Jews by upholding the Balfour declaration and guarantee to Jewish refugees the right to a homeland in Palestine.

This subject was presented to the convention in the following report of the Committee on International Labor Relations, which the convention adopted:

"One of the tragic outcomes of the march of dictatorships in the world is not only the suppression of free trade unions in many lands, but the means that have been employed to suppress racial and religious minorities in one country after the other. Envy, hatred, malice and intolerance have been let loose by these tyrannical dictators and the liberties of people have everywhere been jeopardized. The right of men to worship God in accordance with conscience, the privilege of men to be secure in their property rights, have been ruthlessly set aside.

"Religious leaders of various denominations have suffered persecution and privations. In some cases they have become martyrs for the faith. Religious institutions, church and synagogue alike, have been closed, in some cases desecrated—in some cases have even been destroyed. Such conditions do violence to the standards of civilized society and cannot be suffered to continue.

"Religious persecution is a matter of deep concern to labor; for it is either a forerunner of the persecution of labor or in some cases it has followed the suppression of labor. Organized labor believes in the right of all men to the enjoyment of these civil liberties; again and again in its long history it has opposed any denial of these rights and has insisted upon these basic rights as the privilege of citizenship.

"Today the refugee problem has become one of the heartrending tragedies. Millions of racial and religious minorities have been compelled to seek new homelands under the threat of persecution and arrest in their homelands. Jew and Christian alike have experienced the pressure of religious intolerance.

"Your committee expresses its deep sympathy for all these victims of religious and racial persecutions and affirm the conviction that such conditions are barbaric.

"To meet this need the Jewish people sought some years ago to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The nations of the world have in the past recognized the just claim of the Jews to re-establish their home in Palestine.

"The Government and the people of the United States have from the very first shown their deep sympathy with this claim. On June 30, 1922, the House and the Senate went on record in favor of Jewish rights in Palestine. Since that time every President of the United States has reiterated this sympathy of the American people. Americans, on their part, have manifested their sympathy and confidence. Thousands of American Jews have settled in Palestine, and Americans have invested over $100,000,000 in that country.

"In view of the foregoing, we call upon the British Government to uphold the Balfour declaration and guarantee to the refugees of an ancient race the right to a homeland of their own. We likewise urge the British members of the I. F. T. U., the British Trades Union Congress, to render every possible support in the attainment of this objective."

TWO GLOVE FIRMS SIGN UNION-LABEL CONTRACTS

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLWNS).—Union label agreements with the Illinois Glove Company of Champaign, Illinois, and the Central Glove Company of Effingham, Illinois, have just been negotiated by the International Glove Workers Union of America, according to an announcement here by Thomas Durian, president of the union.

These two firms are operated under one management and manufacture a complete line of union-labeled dress and work gloves.

All employes are members of Glove Workers Union, Local 97 of Champaign, and Glove Workers Union, Local 99 of Effingham. The normal force of both plants together is over 300 glove workers.

All union members and their friends are urged to ask for the glove workers union label when purchasing work gloves and mittens, as well as dress gloves, and any support the members of the A. F. of L. can give these two firms will be appreciated.

PROFITS INCREASE

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The alleged lack of confidence of business men in the economic condition of the country is not reflected in current summaries of financial operations. According to the Associated Press profits of the first 230 large companies to report results for 1939 were nearly $500,000, or 63 per cent greater than in 1938. A compilation placed earnings for the group at $1,152,061,000, compared with $704,806,000 in the previous year.

N. Y. HOTEL WORKERS GAIN WAGE INCREASES

Three Hundred Union Employes of Park Central Hotel Collect $7,500 Under Arbitrator's Decision.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—More than 300 employes of the Park Central Hotel recently began to receive an aggregate of approximately $7,500 in wage increases due them since July 15, 1939, under the union contract the hotel has with the New York Hotel Trades Council, A. F. of L.

The lump sum payments, averaging about $25 per worker, were made by the hotel management in conformity with the first major decision handed down by Edward P. Mulrooney, who is impartial arbitrator in the hotel industry under the agreement signed between the Hotel Association of New York City and the union.

The union contract, which is now in effect in more than 90 of New York's hotels, was signed by the Park Central Hotel on January 26, 1939. The agreement provided, among other things, for a wage increase of $2 a week for each worker, $1 to be paid immediately upon signing, the other $1 increase to go into effect beginning July 15, 1939.

The Hotel Park Central at the time the second increase was to go into effect appealed to Impartial Arbitrator Mulrooney to be relieved from paying it due to their financial situation.

Mr. Mulrooney ordered that the money involved be placed in escrow pending his decision, and held a number of hearings at which the union opposed the hotel's petition. His final decision was that the increase provided in the contract must be paid by the Park Central Hotel, as a result of which it started paying off the workers.